



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 136

January Session, 2013

House Bill No. 6457

House of Representatives, March 25, 2013

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs reported through REP. HENNESSY of the 127th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISPLAY OF THE STATE OR NATIONAL FLAG AT HALF-STAFF.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 3-10f of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) [Whenever the Governor prescribes that the state flag be flown at
4 half-staff for a period following the death in the line of duty of a
5 member of the armed forces, the Governor shall also prescribe that the
6 national flag be flown at half-staff for the same period.] In the event of
7 the death of a present or former principal figure of state government or
8 of a member of the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, who is
9 from Connecticut and dies in the line of duty, the Governor may
10 proclaim that the national flag be flown at half-staff. When such
11 proclamation is issued, all state government buildings, offices, public
12 schools and military bases shall fly the national flag and the state flag
13 at half-staff.

14 (b) In the event of the death of a state official or celebrity, the
15 Governor may proclaim that the state flag be flown at half-staff. When
16 such proclamation is issued, all state government buildings, offices,
17 public schools and military bases shall fly the state flag at half-staff.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	3-10f

VA *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

The bill, which prescribes when the national and state flags on state property shall be flown at half-staff, has no fiscal impact.

The Out Years***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6457*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISPLAY OF THE STATE OR NATIONAL FLAG AT HALF-STAFF.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill conforms state law to federal law by authorizing the governor to issue a proclamation ordering the national flag to be flown at half-staff following the death of a (1) present or former principal figure of state government or (2) member of the armed forces who is from Connecticut and dies in the line of duty.

The bill also authorizes the governor to issue a proclamation ordering that the state flag alone be flown at half-staff following the death of a state official or celebrity.

After the governor issues either type of proclamation, the bill requires all state government buildings and offices, public schools, and military bases to fly the national and state flags in accordance with the order.

Current law requires the governor to order that the national flag be flown at half-staff after he orders that the state flag be flown at half-staff following the death of an armed forces member who dies in the line of duty.

The bill defines "armed forces" as the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force, or any reserve component thereof, including the Connecticut National Guard. The bill does not define "principal figure of state government" or "state official or celebrity."

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

The federal Flag Code codifies rules and customs for the display and care of the U.S. flag. Among other things, the code authorizes U.S. governors to issue proclamations ordering that the national flag be flown at half-staff following the death of a (1) present or former state government official or (2) state armed forces member who dies in the line of duty. After a governor issues such a proclamation, each federal installation or facility should fly its national flag at half-staff. No state or local flag may be flown higher than the national flag, so when the national flag is flown at half-staff, so should state and local flags (4 U.S.C. § 7).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13 Nay 0 (03/07/2013)